

Principal's Message

As we get beyond the half-way mark in this term, our senior students are busy preparing for their final exams next term. Students can experience a fair bit of anxiety which can sometimes be compounded by the perceived expectation by our school for high ATAR scores in VCE. I spoke to Year 12 students last week on this perception. My position of high expectations is not a secret, however, the focus of my expectation is not so much about the scores students obtain, as it is on the ability for every student to do their best.

I asked all students to place themselves at the time where their VCE was complete and asked them to look back over the work they had put in during the year. I did not want students to have any regrets about their results (whatever they may be) if they had put in 100% effort, I expect all students to try their best and not to say to themselves "Perhaps I could have worked a little harder". Much of the result in Year 12 is far more dependent on the work individuals put in rather than any "academic giftedness". Hard work and perseverance pays-off, our students still have time to use their remaining 8 weeks to achieve.

Subject selection

Subject selection will soon be undertaken. Stawell Secondary College will concentrate on setting goals for our students in order to align their studies with their preferred career path. Although we understand it is difficult for students to establish a succinct career goal (particularly for younger students), it is nevertheless important to consider the type of activities students enjoy doing in order to further explore the opportunities for long term pathway into employment or further study.

Carlos Lopez
Principal
Stawell Secondary College

**Bags For Good Food Drive**

Each Homegroup has been given a bag for good recyclable shopping to fill with non-perishable items, long life food items and hygiene products. We are asking students to please bring in-dated and labelled products from home. The food drive is ending in three weeks time. There is a display in the main office that students and their families can view to get some ideas as to what can be donated. There is also a bag for goods on the display table for your convenience to donate items. All items collected will be going to Stawell inter-church food bank to distribute to disadvantaged people within our local community. Thank you for your time and we would really appreciate your support and cooperation.

VCAL PDS project group.



Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews shall be held on Monday 2nd September 2019 during the day and evening in three sessions:

12.30 noon – 2.30 pm

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

5.30 pm – 8.00 pm

The school will not require students to attend normal timetable classes on this day but students would be expected to attend interviews.

Parents will be able to book interviews via the parent portal from 4.00pm on Thursday 22nd August 2019.

Assistance is available from the front office on ph 5358 1700 for bookings and or password problems.



Want to try Yoga?

Come along to **FREE** CLASSES!

LUNCHTIME YOGA

No experience necessary!

ALL STUDENTS and STAFF welcome ☺

TUESDAY lunchtimes starting 23/07/19

Time: 1.05pm (sharp) - 1.35pm in the HALL



Book of the Week

The Explorer

Author: Katherine Rundell

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him.

As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

Except, it seems, someone has been there before them....

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

26 August	Parent information session Parent Portal @ 6pm Year 7 centre.
27 August	Parent information session Parent Portal @ 5.30pm Year 7 centre.
27 August	MAC excursion VET Hair and Beauty students 6.30am departure
28 August	School Council Meeting @ 7pm
28 August	No Year nine classes will be held– Year 9 Students only attend school for their subject Selection interviews
29 August	No Year ten classes will be held - Year 10 students only attend school for their subject selection interviews
29 August	VTAC Information Evening @ 6.30pm Marion College Ararat
30 August	AIME Program excursion
2 September	Parent Student Teacher interviews. No formal Classes will run.
20 September	Last Day of term three. Early dismissal 2.15pm.
7 October	First day of term four.

Wellbeing Matters

It is now widely acknowledged that mental health education for young people is a vital part of their overall education, given what we know are increasing stressors and pressure that they face today. Schools certainly have an increasingly important role to play in this process, with the aim of not only improving educational outcomes, but also in equipping young people with lifelong skills necessary to successfully navigate other challenges to come. At times it can be difficult to promote these messages to young people and we need to find new and novel ways of opening up conversations on mental health. Given this we are very excited to announce that we will be hosting the SING IT OUT Tour on September 10th for students in Years 7-10. This music performance is an exciting initiative created by industry producer Josh Needham, to promote music as a powerful tool to enhance the mental wellbeing of Australian youth. We are fortunate to have this event in our school and hope that the students will benefit not only from the incredible performances of leading artists, but will also be empowered by the personal testimony and education.



Subject Selection Interviews

Parents & Guardians are encouraged to attend interviews.

Tuesday 27 August 2019 –Subject Selection Interviews – Open to all Current Year 9 -11 students

From 3.30pm onwards

Wednesday 28 August 2018 – Year 10 2020 subject selection interviews

No current Year 9 classes timetabled for this day – students only attend school for their interview

Thursday 29 August 2019 – Year 11 2020 subject selection interviews

No current Year 10 classes timetabled for this day – students only attend school for their interview

Friday 30 August 2019 – Year 12 2020 subject selection interviews

Students who do not attend an interview on the Monday evening will attend an interview on this day – and they will be excused from timetabled class to attend.

Chinese Short Stay

From 2nd to 11th August, Stawell Secondary College hosted a group of 19 students and 2 teachers from China. Below are the Chinese students' reflections of their stay in Australia. They offered a lot of different perspectives on how they feel about school and the Australian way of living. Again, many thanks to our wonderful homestay families (you were certainly highly appreciated by all of the students!) and our caring school buddies who supported the students to fit in to the Australian lifestyle very smoothly. As I would like to include all of the students' testimonials and we have limited space in our fortnightly newsletter, we are going to spread students' comments over several weeks. Enjoy reading. Ms Ling



At school, I made a lot of friends, I am very happy to know them. I hope to have a chance to see them again. My host family (Lexi Collins) is very friendly, this is like my other home, I'm very lucky to live here. It's very interesting to go out for different activities and excursions, I learned a lot about Australia. I like my life here. I'm leaving soon, and I feel very reluctant. This will be the most memorable time of my life. Goodbye, my friends.

From Li Jiale Year 7

I had a good experience in Australia. I enjoyed my stay here very much. My homestay (Lexi Collins) mum Cathy is very good at cooking, she can cook delicious food. She is also a good teacher. She taught me many Australian food like Vegemite, TimTam biscuits and Meat Pie. My homestay buddy is nice. We usually played UNO in the evening. I talked a lot with them. They are all very patient and kind.

At school, the teachers are patient and the students are friendly. I also have a school buddy Bella Morris. I learnt a lot from her.

You know it's hard to say goodbye. Mum said we can come back when we grow up. Yes, it has been the best experience in my life and I will miss my life here.

From HU NIngxuan Year 7

Australia is a wonderful country! There is no pollution, the blue sky and white clouds always make a nice picture, and the air is very fresh. We went to Stawell Secondary College, an Australian school. Students there have a lot of great subjects, like Cooking and Textiles. Compared to us, they are very happy. I also lived in a nice homestay family (Henry Hemley) and made some Australian friends. It was a wonderful trip and I won't forget it.

From SHENG Yang Year 7



My school life is fantastic! My buddy (Ruby Crouch) and her family is very nice to me. My classmates are friendly, too. Subjects here are different from ours. I think they are more interesting than ours. I like Textiles best. I made two pompoms. They are lovely and fluffy. I like them a lot.

The Australian environment is good. There are a lot of trees and grass around houses. There are more open space than China. I hope Chinese environment can change for the better, like this. There are many farms in Australia. Gentle sheep and cows eat grass on the large green paddocks. I like Australia!

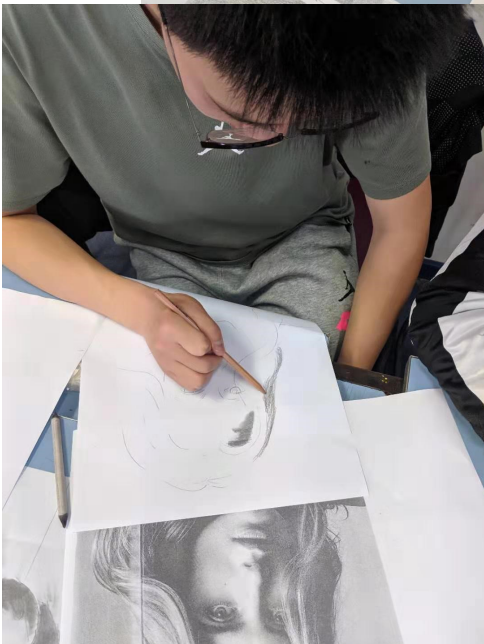
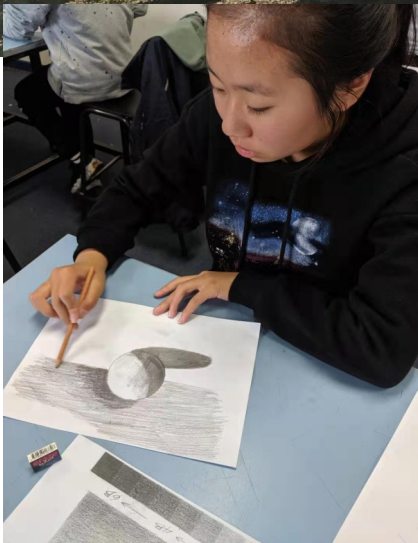
From WU Meng Year 8

I visited many beautiful places in Australia like Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and so on. Then I lived with a very friendly family (Georgie Stewart) for five days, we went to school by bus every day. At school, I studied with my buddy Georgie. I also spent time with Georgie and her brother and sister every evening. Georgie's parents also gave me a present, I was so happy! It will be precious memories of my life!

From CAI Xiangyang Year 8

At school, I felt the kindness and care of my classmates and my teachers. I was surprised by size of every class as we have 40-50 students in each class in China. I also felt the warmth of my host family (Craig and Sarah Marrows). Thanks for looking after me.

From ZHU Jianfeng Year 8



Australia is a magical country. The people here are very hospitable and the buildings are very magnificent. What I feel most about Australia is their love for life. "Have a nice day" to each other every morning contains many good wishes for each other's day. School life is also very easy, in the lower grades to learn are necessary life skills, I think it is very useful. People here live in their small villas, and some have large farms, raising sheep, chickens and cows. Their life is a slow pace, and everyone is doing what he or she loves, leading a life full of freshness. On Saturdays and Sundays, parents can spend time with their children, which may be essential for their growth. The sports here are also very interesting. Handball and football are exciting sports, which also have Australian characteristics. Today, I watched the little brother's football game with my parents (the Monument Family) here. It was also the last day of my stay here. I am very reluctant to part with them and looking forward to our next meeting.

From XU Zi Xiang Year 10

This trip to Australia left a great impression!

During my stay, I really enjoyed the local customs of this country. Stawell is very clean and liveable. The people here are very kind and relaxed. At school, I feel the enthusiasm of my classmates. We communicate in English, although it is a little difficult, but it does not affect our communication. I made many friends and I like them very much. The study pressure here is much less than that in China, so you don't have to get up early and stay late every day, and you have enough spare time to arrange independently. The food here is delicious and I also like vegemite very much.

I would come here again if I had the chance. It's really a charming place!

From YU Binghong Year 10



Australia is a wonderful country, and this trip is very meaningful. Not only does this trip make me the harvest of joy and friendship, but also the confidence and determination to make myself better so that I can come back to Australia again one day. Through this trip, I felt Australia's humanistic customs, visited the beautiful natural scenery, appreciated the Australian education, learned Australia's cultural heritage. The memory will stay in mind forever.

From GU Xinyu Year 10

Life in Australia is cool. Here, I learned a lot and felt a lot different from China. At school, I met many friends; during my travels, I felt different cultures in Australia; during my studies, I learned about different ways of learning. Everything is beautiful and deep in my heart. All My school mates take good care of me, and my buddy Melissa Sanders is very good at Chinese. When she speaks English to me, she is afraid that I cannot understand it and translate it into Chinese for me. I am very grateful to her. Overall, I love Australia!

From YANG Jinshuo Year 10

sing it out



DOUBLE PLATINUM
ARIA AWARD NOMINEE

**TAYLOR
HENDERSON**

STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Tuesday 10th Sept
9:15 am



triple j featured artist

**LIBBY
STEEL**

@libbysteelmusic



GUEST SPEAKER

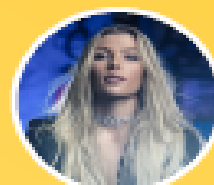
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NEEDHAM**

@joshneedhamartist



signed recording artist

KYE
@getitkye



**GEORGIA
CAINE**

@georgia_cainemusic



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ELLEN

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